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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (American Zone)

DATE DISTR. 27 July 1950

SUBJECT Communist Agitation Among
Unemployed Laborers

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. It was repeatedly reported that the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) conducts a systematic propaganda campaign among unemployed workers who go on unemployment relief and must report to the Frankfurt/Main labor offices twice a week.

2.

25X1X

a. The unemployed are subjects of a skillfully conducted Communist propaganda campaign. KPD agents, mostly young men, talk to the unemployed, form groups for discussion and urge those who stand by to continue the conversation in nearby restaurants. They entertain them and show them the causes for the unemployment which they say lie in the advance of American monopoly capitalism, in systematic efforts to make Germany a colony of slaves and preconcerted attempts to bring down the wages by enlarging the army of the unemployed.

b. The agitators then declare that only the KPD is in a position to remove unemployment. Only this

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

25X1A

party really cares for the unemployed while the Social-Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and the labor unions stand for the unemployed only for form's sake.

c. One of the KPD functionaries in charge of the agitation among the unemployed allegedly is Albert Letsch, a labor office official who was born 16 September 1912 in Frankfurt/Main and lives at 18 Raiffeisenstrasse. Letsch formerly was public prosecutor at the denazification tribunal as a KPD delegate and also was a Communist municipal councillor. He resigned this position when he became section leader in the labor office. Letsch is also said to see that KPD members are given employment along KPD lines. Letsch is in contact with Franz Roell, head of the residence permit section of the Frankfurt/Main housing office. Roell acts as liaison man between the KPD and the housing office.

3. There are indications that Roell forwards to the KPD District Board in Frankfurt/Main information acquired through his activity in the housing office. He was born 8 September 1898 in Frankfurt/Main, lives at 26 Flensburgerstrasse, Frankfurt-Eckenheim and was a bookkeeper before he was employed by the labor office.

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